

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 NIC-01 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00 AID-20

OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /180 W

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R 250545Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SEVSTATE WASHDC 5609

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSH TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9515

E.O. 16652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, XF

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO MIDDLE
EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

SUMMARY: AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM
ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY IN MIDDLE EAST. THEY SAW
NO NEED TO CHANGE GOJ POLICIES IN ORDER TO ENSURE CON-
TINUING SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM, BUT ALSO AGREED THAT GOJ
EXERCISES LITTLE INFLUENCE IN AREA. THEY SAW NO SOLU-
TIONS TO IMPASSE IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT OTHER THAN

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RENEWED APPEALS TO GREAT POWERS. THEY AGREED THAT GOJ

SHOULD INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO NON-OIL PRODUCING STATES
IN AREA. END OF SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, KUWAIT,
IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, LEBANON, ISRAEL, EGYPT, SUDAN,
TUNISIA, ALGERIA AND MOROCCO (CHARGE IN LIBYA REMAINED IN
PLACE) HELD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN TOKYO JULY 9-11. FONOFF
VICEMIN HOGAN MADE POINTS CITED IN SUMMARY ABOVE TO
AMBASSADOR AS MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF CONFERENCE. EMBOFFS
FOLLOWED UP WITH MIDDLE EAST DIVISION HEAD YAMAMOTO
WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

2. ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE - AMBASSADORS AGREED THAT SINCE
DEPARTURE OF SOVIET ADVISORS FROM EGYPT, ISRAELI POSITION
HAS BECOME OVERWHELMINGLY STRONG, WHICH ISRAEL IS WELL A-
WARE OF. CONVERSELY, ARABS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY
FEARFUL AND EGYPT IN PARTICULAR
IS SERIOUSLY FRUSTRATED.
NEITHER SIDE HAS CHANGED ITS POINT OF VIEW. NEGOTIATIONS,
NOW AT STANDSTILL, ARE ESSENTIAL AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE
TO IMPROVE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE TO PERMIT ARABS TO ENTER
THEM WITHOUT LOSING FACE. AMBASSADORS WERE NOT CERTAIN
WHAT COURSE EVENTS MAY NOW TAKE THOUGH THEY WERE
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
THEY CONCLUDED THAT JAPAN HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE IN AREA.
THEY CONTEMPLATED APPEAL TO GREAT POWERS -- SPECIFICALLY US
BECAUSE USSR WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RESPONSIVE -- BUT
YAMAMOTO SAID FONOFF HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING ACTION
AT THIS TIME, EITHER IN DIRECT APPEAL OR THROUGH UN.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR ENERGY PROBLEMS -- AMBASSADORS AGREED
THAT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT COULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM
PROBLEMS OF CONTINUED PETROLEUM SUPPLIES. IN THIS
CONNECTION, AMBASSADORS UNDERSTOOD THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND
EGYPT RECENTLY REACHED SOME UNDERSTANDING THOUGH PRECISE
NATURE WAS NOT CLEAR. AMBASSADORS BELIEVE THAT SAUDI
ARABIA IS LOOKING AT OIL PROBLEM FROM BROAD POINT OF
VIEW AS IT ALSO HAS IN PAST, AND THEREFORE RECENT REMARKS
BY YAMANI SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING THAT
SAUDI ARABIA NOW PLANS TO USE PETROLEUM FOR POLITICAL
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PURPOSES. FONOFF SEES NO REASON AT MOMENT TO BE WORRIED
ABOUT SAUDI ARABIAN POLICY BUT DOES NOT EXCLUDE MORE
DIRECT LINK BETWEEN OIL AND POLITICAL CONCERNS IF THE POLITI-
CAL SITUATION SHOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE. AMBASSADORS
TO OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WERE OPTIMISTIC ON PROSPECTS
FOR STABLE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM. AMBASSADORS SAW NO
SUPPLY CRISIS AT PRESENT AND DO NOT EXPECT ONE TO ARISE
IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE IF CONTINUING ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

COULD BE OFFERED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION.

4. UTILIZING ARAB CURRENCY RESERVES -- AMBASSADORS DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF GETTING PRODUCER STATES, ESPECIALLY SAUDI ARABIA, TO INVEST HUGE CURRENCY RESERVES IN POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MANNER. IN THIS CONNECTION YAMAMOTO MENTIONED JAPANESE JOINT VENTURES IN FIELDS OF PETROCHEMICALS, ALUMINUM AND STEEL. GOJ IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO INTEREST SHEIKDOMS IN INVESTING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IMPOVERISHED ARAB STATES.

5. NAKASONE VISIT TO GULF STATES -- YAMAMOTO SAID AMBASSADORS FELT MOST SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO JAPAN FROM RECENT NAKASONE VISIT CAME IN ABU DHABI. JAPANESE PURCHASE OF SHARE IN ADMA AND SUBSEQUENT JAPAN LINES PURCHASE OF PARTICIPATION CRUDE HAD LEFT MANY MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS. ABU DHABI HAD FELT IN FIRST INSTANCE (ADMA) THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY CONSULTED AND IN SECOND THAT MITI HAD BEEN OVERLY CRITICAL OF WHAT ABU DHABI CONSIDERED WAS GOOD DEAL FOR JAPAN. NAKASONE, HOWEVER, HAD SUCCEEDED IN SMOOTHING OUT DIFFERENCES WITH OTAIBA, AND GOOD RELATIONS WERE RESTORED. AMBASSADORS GENERALLY AGREED ON NEED FOR MORE SUCH VISITS, BUT DID NOT DISCUSS ANY SPECIFICS.

6. ROLE OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES - ALL AMBASSADORS HAD AGREED MAJORS WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AND THAT JAPAN SHOULD MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH MAJORS AS WELL AS WITH PRODUCING NATION .

7. AID AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN MIDDLE EAST -- AMBASSADORS DID NOT HAVE CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS ON AID TO MIDDLE EAST BUT AGREED THAT WEIGHT GOJ ASSIGNED TO AID PROGRAMS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS AREA WAS MUCH TOO LOW. JAPANESE PRIVATE INVESTMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO PLAY MOST SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AIMED AT MIDDLE EAST. IN THIS CONNECTION, YAMAMOTO NOTED RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE JAPAN-SAUDI ARABIA COOPERATION COMMITTEE.

8. SITUATION IN PERSIAN GULF -- AMBASSADORS CONCLUDED THAT POLITICAL TENDENCY IN GULF IS TOWARD STABILIZATION (EMIRATES APPEAR MORE STABLE THIS YEAR THAN LAST) AND SAW NO MAJOR DANGER TO SECURITY. THEY AGREED THAT SOVIET PRESENCE HAS BECOME IMPORTANT IN IRAQ THOUGH PRESS TENDS TO EXAGGERATE NATURE AND DEGREE OF SOVIET ROLE. SHOESMITH

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